

Please rewrite the paragraph which appears at page 18, lines 1-8 of the specification to read as follows:

32  
In certain of the above-described embodiments, several individual markings 24 cooperate together to provide a unique identifying function. In other embodiments, a single marking 24 or a small number of markings may be configured to provide unique identifying pieces of information. For example, a single marking 24 may comprise an area on a container 20 having a detectably unique shape that functions as an identifier. In addition, the marking 24 may comprise a number of different markings 24 interconnected so as to create a single marked area 24.

Please rewrite the paragraph which appears at page 19, lines 11-21 of the specification to read as follows:

32  
Figures 5(a) and 5(b) illustrate examples of an output signal obtained from a light emitter-detector pair in one embodiment when utilized to detect spaced markings 24 on a container 20. The output signal indicates the amount of reflected light detected versus time. Figure 5(a) illustrates an example output signal obtained when the markings 24 constitute laser etched areas of the outer surface of the container. Figure 5(b) illustrates an example output signal obtained when the markings 24 comprise areas of translucent adhesive tape applied to the outer surface 22 of the container 20. In both instances, the markings 24 are clearly identifiable as peaks in the output signal, while the unmarked areas comprise "valleys" or dips in the output signal.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 4 and 32 without prejudice, and add the following new claims 33-50: